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HOUCK'S ADM'R AND OTHERS V. DUNHAM & KERFOOT.—Decided at Staunton, October 10, 1895.—Harrison, J:

- 1. CHANCERY PRACTICE.—Decree for account of debts—statute of limitations. Although a suit in chancery is instituted for the purpose of auditing specific liens against the estate of a decedent, a decree directing an account of all debts outstanding and unpaid against said estate, renders the suit one for the benefit of the general creditors of the estate, and the statute of limitations ceases to run against their claims from the date of the entry of the decree.
- 2. CHANCERY PRACTICE—State demands—laches. A court of equity will, as a rule, refuse its aid to enforce stale demands, but where the claim is not barred by the statute of limitations, the amount is certain, the transaction is not obscure, and it is not likely that injustice will be done owing to the loss of evidence or the lapse of time, and the claimant has not been guilty of such laches as should deprive him of his rights, the court will grant relief.